

WASHINGTON, DC – Following the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) Rally at which he spoke, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) released this statement in support of NTEU members, and all the public servants who work hard on behalf of the American people each day:

“I was pleased to see so many federal employees at today’s event. These are public servants who perform important work on behalf of this nation, from keeping our homeland safe to ensuring the food we eat is safe and making certain our seniors get their Social Security checks on time. Federal employees are a living example of government ‘for the people, by the people.’

“That’s why it’s disappointing that Republicans continue to target these public servants, making them the only group of individuals to be asked to contribute to deficit reduction. They have already contributed \$75 billion: the first \$60 billion came from a two-year freeze in annual cost of living adjustments, and just last week new employees were asked to give up an additional \$15 billion in pension benefits. No other group has been asked to pitch in – including millionaires and billionaires.

“Federal employees are struggling to get by just like others in the middle class today. According to the Federal Salary Council, America’s federal workers still earn 26% less than their counterparts in the private sector. This isn’t fair and isn’t right. It’s time we started asking everyone to pitch in and work together to meet our challenges, not just our middle class public servants.

“I want to thank NTEU for it hard work – by its staff and its dedicated members – as well as everyone else who came out today to raise awareness about this issue and about the contributions made by our federal employees to our national life.”